

Frank Bacon, Broadway's Idol As "Lightnin' Bill Jones," Dies; "I Am Tired Out," His Last Words

Great Character Actor Ends Career in Role That Won Him Unexampled Acclaim—Played Despite Warning—His Life a Romance of the American Stage.

CHICAGO, Nov. 20.—The final curtain has fallen for Frank Bacon, one of the most widely known actors on the American stage, and all the earthly cares of "Lightnin' Bill" Jones have ceased to exist.

"Bill," whose pathos and tenderness had swayed millions during the more than 2,000 performances he had played the part in New York and in this city, just got all tired out. But he refused to step out of the character he loved so well until it was too late. Passing his hand over his eyes just a little more realistically and deprecatingly saying: "Now, mother," as he had said it so often in the play, he went on and on until on Saturday he fell into a coma from which he never revived.

Arterio-sclerosis was the name by which the medical men called it. He had been compelled a week before to retire from the play, but right up to the time unconsciousness overtook him he kept on repeating "I am just a little tired, but I'll be back in a week or two." Now, after nearly five years, when "Lightnin' Bill" again steps on the stage, the delightful, irresponsible and thoroughly good-hearted Bill Jones will be played by another man. Someone else will tell the delightful preparation of driving a swarm of bees across the plains without the loss of a single bee.

When his wife and daughter, Mrs. Matthew Allen, learned that "Bill" was a great deal more ill than he would admit even to himself, they took him to a suburban hotel, hoping that he would improve to such an extent that they could take him back to his home in Bayville, Long Island. He chided them for their sisterly concern, and with the cheering optimism of his character, said that his indisposition was nothing and that he would be back on the stage in a short time.

Late Saturday night he fell into a coma. He died peacefully, with his face bearing the amiable smile of Bill Jones the role which he had played so long and which had become a part of his personality.

But perhaps things occurred just as Frank Bacon would have wished. He had scored one of the most spectacular successes of the American stage after many lean years. He rewrote the play "Lightnin'" with Winchell Smith, who produced it, after having carried it around with him during the years he was unemployed. He broke all American records for continuous runs—1,291—at the Gaity Theatre in New York, and finally came to this city in August of last year after having received one of the most spectacular tributes ever accorded an actor of the American stage.

City officials, including Mayor Hylan, leaders of the arts, theatrical magnates, fellow players and hundreds of just plain theatregoers formed a huge parade which swung down Broadway and escorted him to the railroad station. Woodrow Wilson sent his regrets at not being able to attend and President Harding telegraphed his best wishes.

For weeks before his collapse it was seen by "Bill's" intimates that the steady performances were beginning to wear him down. Mrs. Bacon particularly saw it. She asked him after every performance if he was all right. Always she got the same reply:

"Yes, yes, mother, I'm all right; but oh, I'm so tired."

Already memorial services have



FRANK BACON

been planned. They will be held on Wednesday at the Blackstone Theatre, where he appeared daily for more than a year until he collapsed after the final curtain a week ago. Kenosaw Mountain Landis, Baseball Commissioner and former Federal Judge, a close friend of Mr. Bacon, will deliver a short eulogy at the services, which will be in charge of the Christian Science Church, of which the actor was a member.

Lloyd Bacon, the actor's son, is on his way here from California, and after the services he will place the body in a vault here, there to remain until next summer, when it will be removed to Mountain View, Cal., Mr. Bacon's boyhood home.

Thus the body will find its last resting place in the soil of his native State, in which he had not appeared since his recent phenomenal rise to fame. His burning ambition, it was said, was to appear as "Lightnin' Bill" in California, which he planned to do in 1924, after he had filled engagements in Boston and Philadelphia. He was to have begun the Boston stand on Christmas Day.

Messages of condolence from hundreds of public men and actresses and actors have been received by "Mother" Bacon and other members of the family.

Much of the credit for the successful campaign of the Actors' Equity Association in this organization's strike two years ago is given to Mr. Bacon. He worked for weeks in behalf of Equity, making speeches and assisting in raising funds.

So many reminiscences of Mr. Bacon's trials "in the sticks," while he was travelling from village to village in unimportant stock companies and before he had an opportunity to display his talents before a New York audience, have been told that books could be written about them. He carried the worn copy of "Lightnin'" about with him more than ten years before he could convince a producer it was worth while.

Mr. Bacon's home the last five years has been Bayville, Long Island. He was born and reared in Marysville, Cal., fifty-eight years ago, and went to school until he was fourteen. Then

he became a sheep herder, an advertising solicitor, newspaper editor and finally tried politics.

He was defeated as a candidate for the California Assembly, so he went to San Jose and joined a small stock company travelling in covered wagons. He acted the part of Switchell in "Ten Nights in a Bar Room," as his first dramatic effort, and there followed almost thirty years of tramping in the West and Middle West, during all which time he was trying to get to New York and either act in or write a play of importance.

Mr. Bacon was a member of a stock company in San Francisco at

the time of the earthquake. He had been for eighteen years on the stage at the Alcazar and Grand Opera House. He came to Chicago shortly afterward, and played the part of the old druggist in "The Fortune Hunter." Then he played in a vaudeville act. He later was in "The Miracle Man," "Stop Thief" and "The Cinderella Man" here. But he was little known before he made his appearance in "Lightnin'."

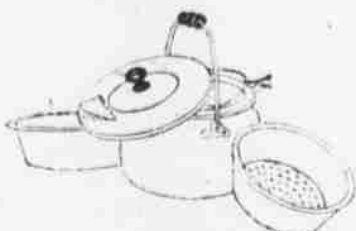
SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 20.—In Sutter County, his birthplace, in the theatrical district of San Francisco, and in the Santa Clara Valley, Frank Bacon, creator of "Lightnin'", and

the principal character in the cast, is being mourned to-day. For in his death at Chicago yesterday vanished a most pretentious theatrical wish—the anticipation of "Frank's" return to his old haunts in the role which made him famous.

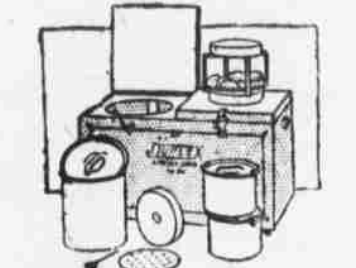
As a barefoot boy sheep herder in the great Sacramento Valley between the Sierras and the coast range, as an advertising solicitor in early manhood, as a photographer and then as the actor, Frank Bacon found contacts throughout California which made the first story of his success in "Lightnin'" a cherished bit of news.

The Thanksgiving Spirit Is Regulated By The Kitchen

THE Thanksgiving dinner demands the perfection of culinary art. The proud housewife aspires to have her every dish excel. Her task is reduced by half if she has the sendoff afforded by such modern kitchen utensils as are to be found in our Housefurnishing Department.



Combination Strainer Pot and Cooker, \$3—Made of heavy aluminum with "Lox Lid" cover may be used as double boiler, steamer, double roaster, colander. Contents may be strained or poured without removing lid. Capacity 7 qts.



Duplex Fireless Cooker, \$20—Two large aluminum lined wells with cooking capacity of 14 quarts. Fully equipped.



Aladdin Double Roasters—of bright blue enamel, seamless. 15 inch size - \$2.50 18 inch size - \$3.00



"Lox Lid" Sauce Pan—Capacity 4 quarts. Made of heavy gauge aluminum. Its unique construction permits straining or pouring contents without removing lid. \$1.50.

SEVENTH FLOOR
Timely Special Purchase and Selling Of Handwoven Straw Baskets, \$1



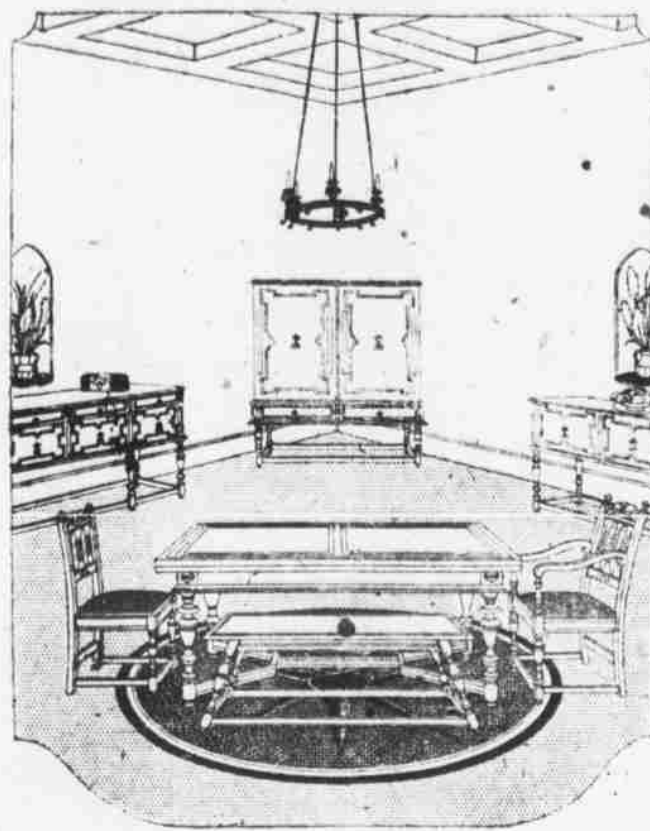
AN unusually low price for a basket of such excellent quality material and workmanship. There are five sizes and an almost unlimited range of colors. If you wish to have several of your Christmas gifts reflect your own handiwork, you may line the baskets with silk and decorate the front with wool or silk flowers, before presenting them.

ART DEPARTMENT—FIFTH FLOOR

Lord & Taylor

FIFTH AVENUE

TELEPHONE FITZ ROY 1900



The Center of Thanksgiving Activities is the Dining Room

THIS dignified dining room set conjures up visions of our rugged ancestors solemnly observing the most decorous of holidays—Thanksgiving.

The set is of solid walnut throughout, consists of 10 pieces and is priced at \$750. The table is the much demanded refectory type, chairs are covered with red mohair. The set is typical of the interesting values in sets and single pieces to be found here.

SIXTH FLOOR

Clearance of

Lace Curtains, Panelings, Bed Sets

At Prices Representing Only Part of Their Values

WE are unable to fill in our assortments of these domestic and imported lace curtains, lace panelings and lace bed sets; because of this we have reduced them to figures which we feel sure you will be unable to duplicate. Exquisite French and Swiss laces are the materials, and the handiwork of many European countries may be discovered in the collection. Colors are ivory and deep arabic. There are three price ranges:

\$1.50 to \$5.75 \$7.50 to \$15 \$19.50 to \$55

Patterns are confined in quantity to 1 to 12 pairs

FIFTH FLOOR

Noteworthy Values in Sheets and Cases

THE special reductions we have taken on these good quality sheets and pillow cases make this event particularly interesting.

Sheets		
63 x 99	• • • • •	\$1.45
72 x 99	• • • • •	1.55
81 x 99	• • • • •	1.65
90 x 99	• • • • •	1.75

Cases		
42 x 36	• • • • •	32c
45 x 36	• • • • •	36c

SECOND FLOOR

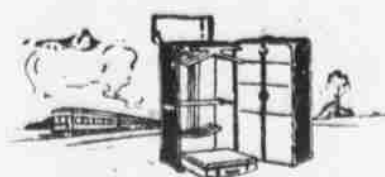
There's Warmth In These

All Wool Scotch Plaid Blankets, \$10.95 Pair

THERE is nothing quite like burly all wool blankets to repel the biting cold of winter evenings. These, of Scotch plaid, will keep you warm even when you feel the thermometer can creep no lower. They weigh 5 lbs. and measure 70 x 80 inches; bound with 3 inch mohair binding.

Special! Wool Filled Comfortables, blue, pink, lavender, \$14.95 each.

SECOND FLOOR



A Shipment Of New Hartmann Trunks! \$37.50

A SPECIALLY low introductory price on a new shipment of Hartmann Full-sized Wardrobe Trunks affords an exceptional opportunity to economize in the purchase of a practical Christmas Gift. Designed to Lord & Taylor specifications these trunks are lined in blue cretonne and equipped with 13 hangers, shoe box and locking bar for all drawers.



English Kit Bags \$35

LORD & TAYLOR had these Kit Bags specially made in England so that you could make a distinctive gift of one. Constructed in sturdy fashion, and unusually smart. Russet Windsor grain leather is used, reinforced corners, short straps and tasteful linings. Sizes 18, 20 or 22 inch.

All Wool Steamer Rugs \$10.50 to \$50

SEVENTH FLOOR



Charming Lamps To Light the Home For Thanksgiving

THE Lamp Department these days is ablaze with beauty; dignified bridge lamps vie with dainty boudoir lamps in displaying their varied charms; floor lamps constantly engage torchers. But their rivalry is merely assumed for each recognizes the effectiveness of the other in its own sphere.

Carved Bridge Lamps in antique gold, mahogany, and wrought iron—complete with silk shades, of georgette or silk. \$20 to \$150.

Wrought iron four light floor torchers, with marble base. \$400 pr.

Wrought iron one light floor candlesticks, electric. \$20 each.

Junior floor lamps, of hand carved wood, finished antique gold, mahogany, and iron, complete with shades of plaited georgette or silk. Complete \$35 to \$300.

Many porcelain boudoir lamps in handsome colors. \$2.75 to \$35.

Gift suggestions include a complete assortment of vanity lamps, candlesticks, desk lamps and others.

FIFTH FLOOR

Franklin Simon & Co. Boys' Shops

Small Boys' All Wool Worsted Jersey Suits

\$5.95

A SAILOR blouse effect, with A knee pants, made of good quality all wool Jersey that won't crease or shrink. A new, novel serviceable and inexpensive suit for boys. Comes in navy, cadet, brown, tan, Forest green or henna.

Sizes 3 to 10 years

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